

Remarks/Arguments

Claim 17 is amended to clarify access data as being request access data used for accessing a source from the Internet. Support for the amendment is found in the specification on page 20, lines 24 to page 21, lines 8, and in other places.

Claim 18 is amended to claim that request access data comprises a uniform resource locator. Support for the amendment is found in the specification on page 20, lines 24-30).

New Claims 19 and 20 are added to clarify access data as being request access data and conditional access data. Support for the new claims are found in the specification on page 20, lines 24 to page 21, lines 8, and in other places.

No new matter was added in view of these amendments.

Applicants also note that Claims 1 and 11 were discussed in a telephonic interview on August 27, 2003 with the Examiner. The substance of the interview is incorporated in this response.

I. 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoffman (U.S. Patent # 5,883,677) in view of Sampell (U.S. Patent # 6,052,556). Applicants disagree with rejection.

Claim 1 claims a step of "retrieving access data from memory". The Examiner in the Office Action does not cite to where in Hoffman or Sampell, alone or in combination, where the claimed access data is disclosed. Moreover, the operation of access data being obtained from memory (as in step a) or the use of the access data to initiate communications to a second source (as in step b) of Claim 1 is similarly not cited to by the Examiner in the Office Action.

Applicant also notes that the Examiner does not show where the claimed "access data" of Claims 11 or 17 are disclosed in Hoffman or Sampell, alone or in

combination. In the Office Action, the Examiner states that for Claim 1, Hoffman does not disclose initiating communication automatically between the set top box and an external source. The Examiner recites to Sampell as to teach the feature of, "automatic communications between devices between Sampell makes use of the USB standard," (Office Action, page 2). Although the Applicants acknowledge that Sampell does state that the disclosed system may use alternative busses (Sampell, col. 3, lines 64 to col. 4, lines 8), there is no teaching in Sampell as to how to modify Hoffman as for "initiating communication automatically between said decoder and a second source external to said video decoder," as claimed in Claim 1.

Claim 17 cites that the claimed first source is accessed through the Internet. Neither Hofmann nor Sampell, alone or in combination, refer to the use of the Internet to access information from a source. Hofmann discloses the use of a delivery system as CATV 310, TELCO 314, and DBS 320 (Hoffman, col. 4, lines 49-60). None of these systems of Hoffman are disclosed as allowing a video decoder to access a source through the Internet. Similarly, Sampell is directed towards a paging network (Sampell, Abstract) that does not disclose that a source is accessed through the Internet by a video decoder.

Applicants note that new Claims 19 and 20 claim access data as being both request access data and conditional access data. This composition of access data is neither disclosed nor suggested in Hofmann or Sampell, alone or in combination.

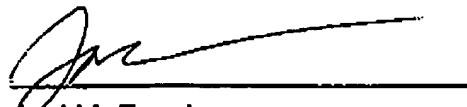
Applicants note that Claims 1, 11, 17, and 19-20 are patentable for the reasons given above, and Applicants request that the Examiner remove the rejection to these claim. Applicants also note that Claims 2-10, 12-16, and 18 are patentable as the claims depend on allowable Claims 1, 11, and 17 respectively. Applicants request that the Examiner remove the rejection to these claims, as well.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' attorney at (609) 734-

6809, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the additional fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

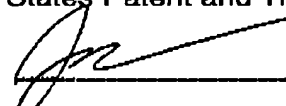

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